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EMPIRICISM.

Observations relative to the granting of Patents.

THE legislature certainly cannot be expected to be competent judges of the merits of a nostrum, and in this instance has given ample proof, that their good intentions are liable to overrun discretion.* Probably, with the granting of patents they little interfere; but as it is considered an act of government, and has great influence on the ignorant and lower, orders of the community; the persons in whom the power resides, should satisfy their minds as to the real merit of the discovery, and if they are not capable of judging for themselves, they should take the opinions of those who are competent to the task. The same may be said of those noblemen who have suffered their names to appear in the public prints, in recommendation of nostrums—but as prudence and good sense are not hereditary, there will, we fear, at all times be found people

* This refers to the patent granted to the Revd. Mr. Barclay, for his anti-bilious pills.

of title and rank, weak enough to lend their names, although in a bad cause, sooner than remain in a state of obscurity. The vanity of the weak is no doubt a little flattered by it.

Med. Observ. v. 1. *p.* 127.

ANDERSON'S OR SCOTS PILL.

This has been a medicine of such distinguished character, that no less than twenty persons at one time lived by the sale of it in the metropolis alone. It was originally no more than a little aloes, with a small proportion of the oil of anise to prevent the griping effect of the purging ingredient; but since it came into so many hands, additions have been made to it in the way of improvement.* The principal prescription for it now is as follows:

Take of aloes, four pounds and a half; powered jalap, one pound and a half; ginger, four ounces; oil of anise, half an ounce; molasses, ten ounces. Mix.

The addition of the jalap will make the purgative effect more speedy and more certain, and the proportion of ginger will add to the power of the essential oil. This composition resembles the Aloetic Pill of the Dispensatory nearer than any other, which is as follows:

Take of powdered aloes, and extract of gentian, each two drams; of salt of polychrest, three drams.

This is a much preferable composition, as well as simpler in its form, the saline compound rendering it equally active as the acrid ingredients in the other prescriptions, and producing less irritation on the intestines.

To all medicines of this kind there are strong objections, from the habit once begun of taking them, being obliged to be continued.

Med. & Surg. Spec. v. 1. *p.* 13.

* In this city, this medicine is frequently prepared by some druggists with the addition of calomel!

HOOPER'S PILL.

A female pill is a chief article of the patent warehouse, and as the three symptoms of obstruction, weakness and loss of appetite, are combined in most female cases, myrrh and steel form the principal ingredients of such compositions.

The prescription for Hooper's Pill is:

Take of species of Hiera Picra, xii ounces; salt of steel, one ounce and a half; tinct. of myrrh cum aloes, so much as to form into a mass.

The steel is here corrected by the vegetable articles, and determined in its action to the bowels. This form differs very little from Widow Welch's Pill, which is likewise salt of steel with no more vegetable matter than is sufficient to make it up. But Hooper's is preferable to the latter. When we compare both these forms with the prescription in the Pharmacopœia of the College, the superiority of regular or irregular practice will be conspicuous. The prescription of the Pharmacopœia that comes nearest these is Rufus's Pill, with a proportion of salt of steel, according to the form of old Quincy.

The gum pill of the Dispensary will be found to answer better where the steel is entirely excluded.

None of these pills, it is clear, are suited to any female cases, but where weakness, and a real atonic state prevails; their operation therefore is much limited; and steel being an energetic remedy, where given improperly by the obstruction occurring in an inflammatory habit, or accompanied with local morbid circumstances, much harm will be done by their exhibition. *Ibid.*

We shall here consider the principal Patent Remedies for external use, which act by irritation of the surface, and in

which the power of friction is conjoined, for little is to be attributed to the influence of absorption. We shall begin first with the

BRITISH OIL.

This is puffed off as an external application of high value, and infallible operation.

The composition of this preparation is as follows:

Take of succinated balsam, one pound—Spirits of turpentine, two pounds—Oil of bricks, one pound—Mix.

There is little doubt, from such ingredients, that the above form must constitute an active and penetrating liniment; and, assisted by friction, invigorate the action of the extreme vessels in a powerful way, wherever obstruction or atony prevails. We do not conceive that any particular quality is added by the oil of bricks, which is properly thrown out of the Dispensary. *Ibid. p.* 203.

GUESTONIAN MEDICINES.

With the above we may compare next what are now termed the Guestonian Medicines, by an empiric of the name of Guest, who egotised the common farrier's black oil as his own specific. The receipt of this medicine, which he has held out as an universal panacea in Gout, Rheumatism, and other disorders of muscular parts, attended with much pain, not omitting tooth-ach, is—

Take of olive oil, two ounces and an half—Spirit of turpentine, one ounce and a half—Acid of vitriol three drams—Mix, but add the vitriol slowly, in an open vessel. *Ibid.*

WHITEHEAD'S ESSENCE OF MUSTARD.

This, like the Guestonian medicine, is a powerful stimulant application, and in rheumatism and fixed pains, will be equally successful as the Farrier's Black Oil, where the skin is tough enough to bear it. Under the title of Essence of Mustard, it is evidently an imposition on the public. By the specification it should be, what it is impossible to make, to produce the supposed effects. Though held out to be oil of mustard with spirits of turpentine, it is chiefly the latter with some flour of mustard added to it; and indeed the oil of mustard has no peculiar quality of the vegetable from which it is drawn.

Another form of this same remedy is given in the Pharmacopœia Chirurgica, which we shall also insert.

Take of spirit of turpentine, three ounces—Camphor, two drachms—Ointment of Spanish flies, one ounce.

The last article being melted in a water bath, the camphor must be added in a powdered state, and lastly the spirit of turpentine.

That the above are powerful stimulant applications will not be disputed; and in proportion to their powerful influence, in the hands of a judicious practitioner, their use would be circumscribed. In all cases where the skin is delicate and irritable, their effects will be to inflame, and not unfrequently to produce ulceration. The surface, therefore, to which they are applied, ought to be somewhat insensible, and rather tough: properly applied under these circumstances, in cases of inflammation and pain, they will be found highly serviceable, and even the friction joined with their use, will accelerate the same desirable event. We are disposed to favour all external applications, on the principle that the muscles, posses-

sing an inherent power of action of their own, termed, as is well known, their irritability, local remedies will influence them in a particular manner, without a necessity for acting upon the rest of the system; and most chronic diseases affecting the muscles, are more local than general affections of the system. Even friction here, we have already observed, possesses considerable influence; and laying down a regular plan of exciting the action of the extreme vessels in this way, cannot fail to be attended with the best consequences.

These compositions of the empiric we shall next compare with the external remedies of the regular practitioner, which instead of the turpentine and vitriolic acid, are composed chiefly of solutions of camphor and ammonia in *oil* or *spirits*.

Camphor may be considered as a peculiar substance, highly penetrating and active without much irritation; hence it enters deep into the surface by means of friction, and acts with energy upon the muscular fibres in consequence of absorption.

Ammonia in the same manner is a salt of a pungent nature and insinuating quality, and being an animal product, is more apt to assimilate with the morbid cause and render it more innoxious than a vegetable matter. It too is distinguished by its volatile and penetrating operation. The forms of composition with these articles in regular practice are numerous. Those with oils are known by the appellation of *camphorated liniments*, which vary in strength according to the proportion of the above ingredients. Being all in the Pharmacopœia, it is needless to particularise them; but the following forms, the one by Dr. Ferriar, and the other by Dr. Kirkland, deserve to be given:

DR. FERRIAR'S CAMPHORATED LINIMENT.

Take of camphor, two drachms—Basilicon ointment, one ounce—Black soap, half an ounce.

This is considered a specific application in Lumbago.

DR. KIRKLAND'S AMMONIATED LINIMENT.

Take of Barbadoes tar, one ounce and a half—Pure water of ammonia, half an ounce.

The external applications, with the active ingredients dissolved in spirits of wine, are distinguished by the name of *balsams*. The most common of the balsams is the opodeldoc, which is variously prepared. The form of Steer's and Dalmahoy's is as follows:

Take of white soap one pound—Rectified spirit of wine, two pints—Oil of rosemary two ounces—Camphor, five ounces—Oil of amber a few drops—Spring water, one pint.

In cases of much pain an improvement is made in the above by *Paytherus's Æthereal Anodyne Opodeldoc*, which consists in the addition of a small proportion of æther and laudanum to Steer's and Dalmahoy's.

From this comparison of the same class of remedies in regular and irregular practice, we are led to observe, while the empiric introduces a powerful stimulant application, the chief quality of which is to act as a rubefacient, the object of the regular practitioner is not so much to operate superficially, as to select and compound his ingredients in such a manner that, from their penetrating virtue, they may be absorbed and conveyed to the seat of the affection; and the external surface suffers little or no injury from their application.

Med. & Surg. Spec. v. 1. 205 &c.

The following short notice, is the case adverted to, in a note at p. 56. The practitioner there mentioned, was a pupil to the celebrated operator in this case.

Died on the 20th June, 1808, Mr. Wylie, of Tetanus. This young gentleman had some time preceding, put himself under the care of a person who has lately been *celebrated* for the removal of wens, without the aid of the knife. It took three weeks to prepare an opening in the skin by means of some species of caustic, for the introduction of the fingers; when the operation of removal may be said to have commenced.‡ A portion of the tumour was in some days extracted; and the separation of the residue was daily attempted by the aid of the fingers, and of numerous large linen tents thrust deep into the sore. On Thursday, June 16, he first perceived symptoms of trismus, which were however *confidently ascribed to cold;* and nothing was done to arrest the progress of this terrific disease, till Saturday the 18th inst. when further aid was called in. The symptoms however, were so greatly aggravated, as to bid defiance to every measure proposed for his relief; and he fell a victim at the early period of 22 years, to a disease of which he was particularly fearful; having visited Philadelphia two years preceding, with the intention of having the tumour removed from his arm by the knife, from which he was deterred at the time, by the gentleman to whom he applied, from a dread of this very disorder being excited during the hot season.

On dissection, the portion of tumour which remained, was found to be seated in, or indeed to form a portion of the long head of the Biceps muscle of the right arm, which above and

‡ This caustic, as far as I could obtain information, appears to have been nitric acid.

below was sound, though in some parts greatly bruised, apparently from the violence offered by the mode of operation.

This short statement is given merely as a caution against admitting such specious novelties into practice; and to warn those afflicted in like manner, not to prefer, from a dread of the knife in the hands of a scientific man, a mode of practice, in itself more painful, and having a nearer connection with the proceedings of a butcher in skinning his cattle; and which, as it respects the operator in the present instance, may safely be asserted not to have the benefit of judgment, founded on education to recommend it.

☞ It is to be hoped the inhabitants of Philadelphia, will not suffer themselves or their offspring, to be cut off by the disorders, for which the remedies below are asserted to be infallible specifics.

"*Two Strings to your Bow.*"*

THE INCOMPARABLE PACIFIC BALSAM.

An infallible cure for the thrush, commonly called the canker.

This medicine is scarcely to be parallelled in the whole practice of physic, as it was *never known* to fail in the most obstinate case! The Thrush are little whitish ulcers affecting the inside of the mouth, tongue, throat and stomach of infants. Sometimes this dangerous disorder reaches through the whole body, in which case it *often* proves fatal, *for want of this* efficacious Medicine. It would be useless to comment more on the *well known* good qualities of this Medicine, as experience has abundantly confirmed what has here been said of it: there-

*The advertiser of this nostrum, appears to regard the old proverb of two strings to your bow, as highly proper, since he not only cures the thrush, but employs his leisure moments in the exercise of schoolmaster.

fore it may suffice to say, that it is a prescription of the late and celebrated Dr. Nettleton,* of London.

N. B. This valuable and incomparable Medicine, is sold at Mr. Raybould's, No. 94 Lombard-street, and no where else in Philadelphia.

☞ Those ladies and gentlemen that make trial of this Balsam, and prove its efficacy, are requested to be so good as to drop a few lines signifying the same to the proprietors, as it will be of the greatest importance and utility to the public, in saving the lives of thousands: and thereby adding greatly to the population of this country!!!

Consumption Cured.

The subscriber from Martinique, offers for sale, a parcel of *Alcornoque Wood*, whose effects in consumption or pulmonic disorders, have been so powerful among the inhabitants of that island, and particularly to Mr. Radolet, a late inhabitant of this town, whose disorder is well known by Dr. La Roche.

JAS. CHEVALLIER.
No. 129, South Second-street.

Singular Account of Gall-stones.

In the memoirs and anecdotes of Philip Thicknesse, mention is made of a gentleman in whose gall bladder, after death, were found no less than 2900 gall stones. He himself had laboured under this disease 25 years, and had passed 27 gall stones in one day. He recommends "horse exercise, keeping the body gently open, a free use of laudanum, 20, 30, or 40 drops, when the stones are passing, and a tepid bath, as all that can be done to relieve the intolerable pain, and save the patient."

* It is to be feared the celebrity of this gentleman, has scarcely reached the meridian of Philadelphia.

Mementos for the Operator in extracting the Cataract. Extracted from Ware's Observations on the Cataract and Gutta Serena.

"1. The instruments that are to be employed in the operation, particularly the knife that is to divide the cornea, should be carefully examined.

The instruments should be perfectly free from rust or stain. The point of the cornea knife should be tried on a thin skin, to ascertain that it is sharp and firm. Its edge should be keen, and its back blunt. Its shape should be that of a wedge; and its width in the broadest part five-eighths of an inch.

2. The patient should be prepared by taking a purgative medicine on the day previous to the operation, and by losing a few ounces of blood on the day it is performed; unless general debility, or some other powerful reason, render these precautions unnecessary.

Be not deceived by suspicious symptoms of weakness, and do not consider age and weakness to be necessarily connected together.

3. A good light should be chosen, and the head and eye of the patient be placed in a position that may give the operator a distinct view both of the cornea and pupil.

The patient should be seated opposite to a clear steady light. The eye on which the operation is to be performed should be opposed obliquely to the window, in such a way that the luminous point, reflected by the cornea, may be on its outer side, next to the temple, and may not confuse the view of that part of this tunic, where the point of the knife is to emerge, on its inner side, next the nose.

4. The patient should be seated on a chair that is lower than that of the operator.

This is necessary in order to enable the operator to apply the requisite instruments to the eye of the patient with ease to himself. And it is more desirable that the patient should sit on a low chair than that the operator should sit on a high one; because in the latter case, unless the operator be very tall, his feet will not be able to touch the ground; and this is necessary, in order to give him a firm seat during the operation. If, again, the patient be not seated on a low chair, the assistant who supports the upper eyelid will require the aid of a book or stool upon which to stand, in order to enable him to carry his hand easily over the patient's head.

5. A slight check should be put on the patient's arms.

Although it be not necessary to confine the hands of the patient during the operation, it is adviseable that a friend sit on each side of him, and place a hand gently on each arm, in order to prevent him from unintentionally raising his hand to his head when the operation begins; but in doing this the assistant should take particular care that his hands do not touch the knees of the operator.

6. The assistant who is to support the upper eyelid should stand behind the patient, inclining to the side opposite to that of the eye upon which the operation is to be performed.

The patient's head should rest against the breast of the assistant who is to support the upper eyelid; and the assistant should be sufficiently tall to be able to carry his fingers with ease, over the head, and to see them accurately applied upon the lid. To do this effectually, he will find it more convenient to stand on the side opposite to that of the eye on which the operation is to be performed, than either on the same side, or directly behind the patient.

7. If the operation is to be performed only on one eye, and the other eye retain any degree of sight, this eye should

be covered with a compress and bandage before the operation is begun.

This advice is necessary to be observed, in order to prevent the patient from being alarmed by the sight of the instruments that are to be employed; since it might incline him to move his head when they come near the eye.

8. The necessary instructions should be given to the assistant before the operation is begun.

The assistant should be directed, before the surgeon begins the operation, to support the upper eyelid, by gently compressing it against the edge of the orbit, without touching the ball of the eye;—and he should be particularly instructed to quit his hold of the eyelid, without relinquishing the support he gives to the head, as soon as he receives the operator's directions for this purpose.

9. In making the puncture of the cornea, the cornea knife should be pushed through, from the side of this tunic next the temple, to that which is next the nose, parallel to the iris, and as nearly to it as it is possible to be carried, without touching it.

If this rule be not regarded, there will be great danger either of wounding the iris, or of making the incision through the cornea too small; and the consequence of either of these accidents will be, that an inflammation will be excited, which will be liable to injure, and perhaps to destroy, the sight that is restored by the operation.

10. A distinct idea of the difference between the puncture and incision of the cornea should be preserved in the mind; and the latter should not be commenced until the former be completed.

The least want of steadiness in carrying the knife through the cornea will occasion the aqueous humour to be discharged, and the iris to fall under the edge of the instrument; and if, to avoid this accident, the point of the knife be brought

out too soon, the aperture in the cornea will be made too small to allow the easy extraction of the cataract.

11. If the point of the knife do not come readily through on the inner side of the cornea, the operator should assist it by the application of the edge of the nail, either of the fore or middle finger, that keeps down the lower lid.

If the point of the knife be not perfectly firm, it will sometimes bend, or pass between the laminæ of the cornea, instead of piercing this tunic on the inner side next the nose. In such a case, if the advice here given be not observed, the operator will be obliged to retract the instrument, and either postpone the operation, or complete the incision with the blunt-pointed knife.

12. If the iris be entangled under the edge of the knife, it should be gently pressed down with the point of the finger, at the same time that the instrument is carried forward to complete the incision.

The reason for this advice is fully detailed in page 291 of the preceding inquiry.

13. Before the incision of the cornea is quite completed, the assistant should be directed to withdraw his fingers entirely both from the eye and eyelid.

The reason for this advice is also fully given in page 300 of the preceding inquiry.

14. If the point of the cornea knife come through too soon on the inner side of the cornea next the nose, it should be withdrawn; and either the operation be postponed, or the incision completed with a blunt-pointed knife.

The meaning of this advice is, that if the point of the knife, after being carried through the anterior chamber of the aqueous humour, do not pass within a short distance of the inner rim of the cornea, and if, in consequence of the discharge of the aqueous humour, it be not possible to carry it farther without puncturing or wounding the iris, it is much more ad-

viseable to withdraw the instrument, and postpone the operation, or to finish the incision with the blunt-pointed knife, than to continue the incision in this improper direction; since the violence which is likely to be done to the iris; as the cataract comes through so small an aperture in the cornea, will endanger a contraction of the pupil, and, of course, a successful issue of the operation.

15. The incision of the cornea is not required to be so large in children and young persons as it is in those who are farther advanced in life.

In young persons the cataract is in general either fluid or soft, and therefore it will come through a small incision in the cornea, without doing injury to the iris; and though the capsule of the crystalline be also opaque, which in such cases is not unusual, it may be extracted through this small aperture, by means of a forceps, with even less risk of discharging the vitreous humour than if the incision were larger.

16. The blunt-pointed cornea knife should be used with great care, to avoid wounding the iris.

This blunt-pointed knife should be narrower than the common sharp-pointed knife, in order that it may pass without difficulty through the aperture that has been previously made with the knife that is used to puncture the cornea. It should be gently pushed through the anterior chamber to the inner side of the cornea, taking care during its progress to avoid all kind of pressure on the eye (not only by the operator, but also by his assistant), in order to hinder the iris from coming under its edge. When the blunt end of the instrument has reached the inner side, a puncture should be made upon it with the point of a lancet, in order to make a way for it to come through. If this process be required on the right eye of a patient, the cornea knife being held, of course, in the left hand of the operator, his right hand will be at liberty, and he may make the puncture with it without any difficulty;—

but if it be required on the left eye, as the cornea knife must be held in the right hand of the operator, if he be not a perfect master of the left hand, the puncture on the blunt end of the instrument will be best made either by the assistant who supports the upper lid, or by some other steady person who is near; and when the blunt end of the knife is brought through, the incision is to be finished exactly in the same way as if the sharp-pointed knife only had been employed.

17. If the incision through the cornea do not pass sufficiently low, it may be enlarged upward with a pair of blunt-pointed scissars.

After the punctuation of the cornea has been completed, whether it be made with the sharp or the blunt-pointed instrument, care should be taken, in completing the incision, to carry the knife down to the lower rim of the circumference of the cornea. If this direction be not properly regarded, or if the knife, at first, be not introduced sufficiently high, the aperture will be found too small for the cataract to pass easily through it; in which case it should be enlarged with a pair of blunt-pointed scissars; and it will be found, in general, that the scissars may be introduced more easily on the outer side, where the knife enters the cornea, than on the inner side, where it emerges from this tunic.

18. When the incision through the cornea has been completed, in all the subsequent parts of the operation the operator should take on himself the whole charge of supporting the upper eyelid.

There is so much danger from the application of an undue degree of pressure on the eye, that I would advise the operator to take the whole charge both of the eye and the eyelid on himself, as soon as the help of an assistant can be dispensed with; and this help is very rarely required after the incision through the cornea has been completed. In all the subsequent parts of the operation, the operator may with great ease

support the upper eyelid with the fingers of his left hand, either by gently compressing it against the edge of the orbit, or by embracing the skin that covers it between his thumb and fingers. He may thus raise it sufficiently high to give him a view of the pupil, whilst, at the same time, his right hand will be at liberty to hold the curette or any other instrument that may be required in completing the operation.

19. In those cases where the capsule of the crystalline humour is unusually tough, or adherent to the crystalline, it may be necessary to introduce a hook through the pupil, and to pass it behind the cataract, in order to expedite its extraction.

Notwithstanding the capsule of the crystalline is, in general, so soft that it may be punctured with great ease with the sharp end of the curette, and this puncture may be enlarged, by moving the curette upward and downward, to a size sufficient to allow the crystalline to come through without difficulty, yet in some instances it is so very tough, that the puncture of it can neither be accomplished by the curette, nor even by the sharp-pointed curved knife, which is occasionally employed for this purpose. In such a case, the usual pressure, both above and below the cornea, is alike insufficient to bring the cataract through; and if it be increased, a part of the vitreous humour will unavoidably be discharged, and afterwards the cataract will retreat from the pupil, and sink in the eye on every subsequent attempt to extract it. When such an accident occurs, it becomes necessary to deviate from the advice that was given in the last memento; and, after ascertaining that the incision of the cornea is sufficiently large, the care of the upper eyelid must be committed to a steady assistant. The operator is then to place one or two fingers of his left hand, with a moderate degree of pressure, upon the eye, a little below the cornea; and the cataract being thus in some degree

prevented from sinking lower in the vitreous humour, a small hook is to be introduced through the pupil, and carried behind the crystalline, in such a way, that its point may be entangled in the posterior part of its capsule; when, being pushed gently forward, the crystalline and its capsule are to be extracted together. In doing this, the operator should be particularly careful that the fingers, both of himself and his assistant, be removed from the eye the moment the cataract is extracted, in order, as far as is possible, to hinder an effusion of the vitreous humour.

20. If, by any accident, a portion of the vitreous humour be discharged, the eyelids are immediately to be shut, and the eye to be left at rest for a few minutes, before the surgeon proceeds to finish the operation.

This is necessary, in order that the eye may recover from the spasmodic action which always takes place when an aperture is made in the capsule of the vitreous humour. After a few minutes, however, the eye may be examined, with very little risk of a farther effusion. The iris may then be adjusted so as to make the pupil round, and the usual means be employed to make the flap of the cornea lie smooth and even.

21. In removing opaque portions of the crystalline humour, great care should be taken that the posterior portion of the capsule of the crystalline be not punctured by the end of the curette.

The reasons for this caution are fully explained in page 301.

22. After the cataract is extracted, the flap of the cornea should be accurately adjusted.

The bandage should not be applied until the operator is satisfied that the iris has perfectly resumed its proper position, and the flap of the cornea is so accurately applied, that no room is left for a subsequent discharge of the aqueous humour. If

any difficulty be experienced in thus adjusting the flap of the cornea, the operator should wait a few minutes, and then examine the eye a second time, when it may most probably be done with greater ease than on the former attempt.

23. Loose eyelashes should be removed; those which are inverted should be either replaced in their natural position, or be extracted; and particular care should be taken to hinder the edge of the lower eyelid from raising or rumpling the flap of the cornea.

I have insisted much on the importance of this advice in the preceding inquiry, page 323; and I shall only add here, that a violent contractile action of the muscles of the face is liable to occasion a dangerous inversion of the eyelid, after the operation has been completed in the best manner that is possible, and notwithstanding the greatest care has been taken during its performance to prevent such an accident. A few years ago, a serious disappointment had very nearly occurred, from this cause, to an old lady, on whom I had performed the operation in the most satisfactory manner, and who had faterwards seen with remarkable clearness every object I placed before her. When the bandage was applied, I congratulated her on the happy termination of the business, upon which she squeezed my hand so forcibly, and accompanied it with so violent a contraction of the muscles of the face, that I instantly suspected that it might be accompanied with a dangerous elevation of the lower eyelid. Under this impression, I removed all the dressings; and on opening the lids, I found, agreeably to my suspicion, that the flap of the cornea had been raised and rumpled by the action of the lower lid. It was easily readjusted, and no injury was done to the eye; but if the cornea had been left in its rumpled state, it must be evident that it would have excited so great an inflammation as infallibly to destroy the sight. The danger arising from such an acci-

dent strongly enforces the necessity of directing the patient to abstain from talking, and from taking a part in the usual concerns of life, as well as partaking of such solid food as requires mastication for the first three or four days after the performance of the operation.

24. In applying the bandage, care should be taken to prevent it from pressing forcibly or unequally on either of the eyes.

If the bandage be made of several pieces of linen sewed together, the part where these pieces are united should not be suffered to lie over the eyes.

New Method recommended for the Relief of Strictures in the Urethra. (Hartenkeil's Med. &. Chir. Gaz. vol. 1.)

M. *Bruninghausen*, a distinguished German practitioner, recommends to the general adoption of surgeons a mode of treating strictures in the urethra, which he has found successful, and which has at least the merit of simplicity, and of being easily put in practice. It consists in dilating the canal of the urethra by means of the urine itself. For this purpose, the patient, as often as he has occasion to make water, must compress slightly with his fingers the canal, just behind the glans, so as to intercept the passage of the urine, making at the same time an effort to pass it. Thus the whole urethra becomes distended, and consequently more or less the strictured part. By this means, says the author, in a little time, the same effect will be produced as by the action of bougies, without any of the inconveniencies that usually attend these. In three instances of stricture M. *Bruninghausen* succeeded completely in removing the disease by the means here recommended. That this simple practice, however, would general-

ly succeed, we are much inclined to doubt. The sound part of the canal, in these cases, is much readier to yield than the contracted portion, and might be stimulated into ulceration by being so overstretched. In cases where the obstruction is nearly complete, there is no want of distension of the sound part of the canal, at least behind the affected part, were that capable of overcoming the stricture. *Med. & Phys. Jour.*

Something new on the subject of Spiders—Extracted from the Pleasing Preceptor, vol. 1.

"I will now relate to you another anecdote of a prisoner, more recent, but less tragical. In the year 1787, when the Prussian army entered Holland, under the duke of Brunswick, Quatremere Disjonval, an adjutant-general in the Dutch service, who had taken part against the stadtholder in the commotions, in the United Provinces, was thrown into prison. Here he remained till 1795, when he was released, on the arrival of general Pichegru at the head of a French army. During the seven years of his confinement, he had nothing to amuse him but the spiders in his prison, which he had tamed. He had gathered about him a great number of these, of different species, and the observations he made on their manners and habits of life alleviated the irksomeness of his solitary hours. His observations on this subject he has arranged in order, and published in a little book, with the title of *Aranæology*. These observations are in part new, and among other things confute the charge made against spiders, that they devour one another. It is true, they do this sometimes, but it is only when they can procure no other food, and are driven to it by necessity. Thus Reaumur, a celebrated French naturalist, collected together a great number of spiders, in order to try whether their webs might not be applied to the purpose of

manufactures, as well as those of the silk-worm. The spiders were so numerous, however, that they could not find a sufficient number of flies and other insects for their food, so that in a short time they were obliged to feed upon one another, and thus the hope of obtaining profit from their labours was frustrated. It is a fact, notwithstanding, that stockings of great fineness and warmth, and of considerable strength, have been fabricated from cobwebs.

The most remarkable observation of our prisoner, Mr. Disjonval, was, that spiders are particularly excellent as prognosticators of changes in the weather, being more certain than the barometer, giving their indications a longer time before hand, and having this advantage to the lower class of people, that they cost nothing.

On the common house-spider, for example, he has made the following remarks. Against fine weather, it peeps out its head, and stretches its legs out of its hole, and this the farther the longer the fine weather will continue. Against bad weather it retires farther back: and against very tempestuous weather it turns quite round, showing nothing but its hinder parts to the observer, thus acquainting him with the approaching change of the weather. At the commencement of fine weather, the web, with which it surrounds its corner, is but of moderate extent: if the fine weather will be lasting, it enlarges it two or three inches; and if it do this several times repeated, we may be certain, that the weather will continue fine for some time.

On the 22d of July, 1795, Mr. Disjonval foretold, from the behaviour of his spiders, a fortnight beforehand, that the water of the Rhine would fall so, as to render it passable by a bridge of boats; and in this manner it was actually passed.

In winter they are as certain prognosticators of approaching cold. If frost and snow be coming on, they either seize upon webs already made, in which case obstinate battles frequently

ensue, or they make new ones, and labour diligently at them. Disjonval found, from several attentive observations, that, from the first of the spiders putting themselves in motion to the setting in of the frost, nine days generally elapsed. We have a striking instance of the justice of this observation in the beginning of February 1793. The weather was fine, warm, and there was no symptom of approaching frost. It might have been supposed that fires would be no longer required: but on the 4th of February, Mr. Disjonval announced, that a great alteration in the weather would soon ensue, as, besides other remarks of a similar kind, he had seen three spider's webs, one over another, in a place where there was not one the preceding evening. On the 9th of February there was ice, and by the 13th all the canals were frozen over. It was now probable, that with the breaking up of this frost the winter would terminate. This was the opinion of Mr. Disjonval himself: and he felt no small satisfaction, in having been able to foretel the freezing of the canals to a whole town, when such a circumstance was least expected. A complete thaw in fact came on; but on a sudden he observed, contrary to all expectation, a general bustle among his spiders on the last day of February. They ran backwards and forwards, began to spin webs diligently, and attacked one another. Hence he inferred, that some remarkable change was taking place; and that very dry weather at least, if not very cold, would ensue. This conjecture he announced to the principal bookseller in the town, and through him to the public. Two days after it rained, which seemed no way favourable to his prognostication; and this rain continued for five days, so that the validity of his prediction appeared daily more questionable. Still, however, attentive to the proceedings of his spiders, he wrote every day to the same bookseller, telling him he continued firm in the persuasion of the approach of cold or dry weather. On the 8th of March it blew hard; on the 9th it snowed;

and on the 10th the frost was so sharp, that all the canals were frozen over again.

The greatest and most striking instance of the importance of these observations, and the dependance that may be placed on predictions respecting the weather from them, is the conquest of Holland by the French in the winter of 1794-5. Disjonval's keeper was inclined to the patriotic party, and in consequence treated his prisoner with less strictness. Through his means Disjonval gave notice to the patriots, that a hard winter would ensue, which would render all the rivers and canals passable on the ice. The taking of the town by the French afforded him the only hope of being emancipated from his long imprisonment: it may be supposed, therefore, that he observed his spiders with the utmost care and attention. In the beginning of December he heard, to his great alarm, that the people talked of a capitulation, which would have annihilated his hopes at once. He used every means in his power, to make known, that, from the operations of his spiders, a very severe frost would inevitably come on, and this within a fortnight at farthest. The people gave credit to his prediction, did not capitulate, and on the 29th of December the frost was so hard, that the French were able to pass the Waal. The aristocratic party flattered themselves, notwithstanding, that the frost would soon break up, as on the 12th of January the water rose, and was turbid, which was considered as a certain indication of a thaw. Disjonval, in the mean time, wrote from his prison to the editor of the Utrecht gazette, that, before three days had elapsed, a more severe cold than the former would take place. On this occasion the spiders proved incomparably better prophets than the turbid water; on the 14th of January the wind rose, on the 15th it froze, and on the 16th the French entered Utretcht; thus the prisoner regained his liberty.

He continued carefully to observe the spiders he could find, in order to give the French general fresh information, which was of such importance to him in this daring enterprise. On the 20th of January a sudden thaw came on. The general was alarmed for the fate of an army of an hundred thousand men, with a train of artillery, and began to think of a speedy retreat. But Disjonval had recourse to his spiders, and they foretold frost. He sent a couple of these little prophets to the French general: they were credited, their prophecies were fulfilled, and the French conquered Holland.

Such a striking circumstance induced the French executive directory to institute an inquiry into this branch of knowlege; observations will be made, most probably in other countries; and thus these *odious* spiders may be found of great importance in meteorology, and consequently of great use in common life.

INFORMATION RESPECTING LEECHES.

To the Editors of the Medical and Physical Journal.

GENTLEMEN,

A very great mortality has lately prevailed among leeches. In the course of three days I lost upwards of twenty; and had my stock amounted to twenty score, I believe they would all in like manner have perished. Another gentleman, I am told, lost one hundred and fifty in a very short space of time, and others have been equally unfortunate. Though leeches are of very extensive utility in practice, their extravagant price* places them beyond the reach of many patients, and few apothecaries can afford to lose so much money as is incurred by such sudden and numerous deaths; any kind of information therefore which your correspondents can give upon the best

* A few months before this paper was written, they sold in Covent Garden market for 3*s*. 6*d*. a piece.

mode of preserving leeches, will be very acceptable to one part at least of the medical world.

Those which I lost were apparently in very good health not a week before they died. They were kept in a sufficiently capacious glass vessel, and were supplied with (Thames) water every day. Almost at once they all sunk to the bottom of the vessel, contracted themselves, and scarcely moving for several hours at last died. Nothing more was particularly observable, except that hard knots or irregular contractions were to be felt in different parts of them.

It ought to be mentioned that the Thames water has lately been so extremely filthy and offensive to the sight, the smell, and the taste, as to be hardly bearable; but as a similar mortality among leeches occurred during the winter months, when the water was free from such disgusting foulness, I can hardly believe that this could be the cause. **S. M.**

August 6. 1804.

A friend of mine having paid considerable attention to the physiology of leeches, and by his method of managing them has been enabled to preserve them fit for use for several years; has permitted me to communicate the result of his experience, through the medium of your useful and respectable Journal.

It appears that river water, though impregnated with foreign substances, is much preferable to spring water, particularly if it be suffered to stand in a cistern for two or three days previously to being used. It is necessary to give the leeches fresh water every day; and in cold weather, it should be in a tepid state.

The vessel containing them must be kept in a place where the temperature will not be reduced below 60 deg. of Faht.

When you put them into fresh water, you will sometimes observe a greenish excrement come from them, in the form of

a thread, which will discolour the water. Whenever this is perceived, it is better to renew the water immediately. You will often see their bodies encircled in various places with pieces of tough, light coloured mucus; this should be removed by gently rubbing them with a soft rag, as they are frequently unable to get rid of it themselves; and, unless this is done, they become sickly, and injure the rest. This seems the most formidable complaint to which they are subject; and on its removal you will be convinced, by the liveliness of their motions, that you have removed an unpleasant and an unhealthy load from them.

If these observations be attended to, and the leeches not too much crouded in the vessel which contains them, there will soon be no reason to complain of their scarcity. I am, &c.

JOHN WHITLAM.

Nottingham, Sept. 6, 1804. *Med. & Phys. Jour.*

Recipe for Syrup for the Hives.

From the misfortune of having all my children, five in number, from their birth, subject to attacks of Trachitis or the Hives, I found it very necessary to turn my particular attention to that disease. All the common remedies as syrup of squills, decoction of seneka, &c. &c. have been found of little advantage; at length I fell upon the plan of combining the virtues of the remedies most celebrated, into the form of a syrup, which I denominated hive syrup: and whilst engaged in the drug business, I compounded it largely as an article of sale. As I have been frequently asked for it, by those who have in their families experienced its efficacy, I have here given the receipt, which will enable every one at a trifling expense to prepare it for themselves, as a domestic medicine. It is far superior to every other form of hive syrup I have ever tried, and is equally superior to them in common colds, hooping cough and those other complaints for which syrup of

squills, &c. are so constantly employed. I may add, that as it sometimes ferments in the hot months, all that is necessary, is merely to boil it down a little, which prevents the continuance of the fermentative process, without diminishing the efficacy of the remedy.

℞. Seneca root, bruised } of each 1-2 lb.
Squills dried and bruised }
Water . . . . 8 lbs.

Boil together over a slow fire, till the water is half consumed—strain off the liquor, and then add of

Strained honey . . . 4 lbs.

Boil the honey and the strained liquor to 6 lbs. or to the consistence of a syrup,—and add to every pound of this syrup, 16 grs. of tartar emetic—that is, 1 gr. to the ounce.

The dose varies from 10 drops to one or more tea-spoons full, every quarter, half, or one hour, according to the age, or the violence of the disease.

It operates by purging, vomiting, and sweat.

☞ Any quantity may be made at a time, using the ingredients in the above proportions. *Editor.*

Singular instance of falling off of the hair in consequence of Fright, communicated to M. Delametherie. (Jour. de Phys.)

"A merchant of the department of Izere was placed, himself, his wife, his children, together with all that bore his name, on the list of the *eminently suspected*, during the reign of terror in France. He concealed himself; but the profound terror with which he was struck followed him in his retreat, and he lost, in the space of four-and-twenty hours, his beard, hair, eye-brows, and absolutely all the hair of his body. Some persons, in a similar situation, have observed their beard and hair to become white in a short space of time, in a night, and even in a few hours. But has such a complete depilation been before witnessed?"

Hair Changed through Fright.

It is related of a boy, in one of the rudest parts of the county of Clare in Ireland, that in order to destroy some eagles lodged in

a hole 100 feet from the summit of a rock which rose 400 feet perpendicular from the sea, he caused himself to be suspended by a rope, with a scimitar in his hand for his defence, should he meet with an attack from the old ones, which precaution was found necessary, for no sooner had his companions lowered him to the nest, than one of the old eagles made at him with great fury, at which he struck, but unfortunately missing his aim, nearly cut through the rope that supported him. Describing his horrible situation to his comrades, they cautiously, and safely drew him up; when it was found that his hair, which a quarter of an hour before was a dark auburn, was changed to grey.

THE BRESLAW TABLE.

With observations and applications respecting the duration and valuation of Lives, founded on the doctrine of chances.

Ages.	Persons living.	Ages.	Persons living.	Ages.	Persons living.	Ages.	Persons living.
1	1000	22	586	43	417	64	202
2	855	23	579	44	407	65	192
3	798	24	573	45	397	66	182
4	760	25	567	46	387	67	172
5	732	26	560	47	377	68	162
6	710	27	553	48	367	69	152
7	692	28	546	49	357	70	142
8	680	29	539	50	346	71	131
9	670	30	531	51	335	72	120
10	661	31	523	52	324	73	109
11	653	32	515	53	313	74	98
12	646	33	507	54	302	75	88
13	640	34	499	55	292	76	78
14	634	35	490	56	282	77	68
15	628	36	481	57	272	78	58
16	622	37	472	58	262	79	49
17	616	38	463	59	252	80	41
18	610	39	454	60	242	81	34
19	604	40	445	61	232	82	28
20	598	41	436	62	222	83	23
21	592	42	427	63	212	84	20

Dr. Halley, professor of geometry in the university of Oxford, framed the preceding table from tables of births and burials in Breslaw, the capital of the province of Silesia, in Germany, for five years, drawn up by a Dr. Newman, of that city, and communicated to the Royal Society in England: this table shews the number of persons who were living in their respective ages current.

Uses which may be made of this table.

Suppose it was required to know the odds of a man of 25 years of age dying within the year?

Look in the table, and you will find in the column against 25, that there are alive 567: in the following year, viz. 26, there are only 560 living; therefore it is 560 to 7, that a person of 25 years of age lives one year: or, when reduced, 80 to 1.

If you would know the odds of a man of 40 living 7 years, you will find the number of persons alive at 47 in the table to be 377, which are to be subtracted from the number of persons alive at 40 years of age, which are 445; the difference being 68, shews that the persons dying in 7 years is 68: therefore it is 377 to 68, or nearly five and a half to 1, that a man of 40 lives 7 years.

If you would know how many years a man of 40 has an equal chance to live, look in the table against 40, and you will find alive then 445; then look in the table till you come to half that number, viz. 222, which shews that it is nearly an equal wager that a man of 40 years of age lives 22 years.

RICHARD MEAD M.D.

BIOGRAPHY.

NUMBER III.

LIFE OF DR. RICHARD MEAD.

With an Engraving.

Dr. RICHARD MEAD was descended from a considerable family in Buckinghamshire, and born at Stepney, a small village near London, in August 1673. His father, Mr. Matthew Mead, was a celebrated divine among the nonconformists, and had been one of the two ministers of that parish; but was ejected in 1662. He had a very numerous family; yet having a handsome fortune, he educated his children liberally, and kept a private tutor in his house for that purpose.

Party rage running high at the end of Charles II.'s reign, Mr. Mead became obnoxious, and was forced to withdraw himself. He went into Holland, after having placed his son Richard at a school, under Mr. Singleton, an able master of his own principles. Here he made a great progress in every thing, which belonged to the Belles Lettres; and in the year 1689, was sent to Utrecht, to complete those studies under the illustrious Grævius, to whom he was recommended by his eldest brother, who had also been his pupil.

After three years residence at Utrecht, he went to Leyden; and being determined to dedicate himself to the study of physic, he attended Herman's botanical courses, and Pitcairn's

lectures on the theory and practice of physic. Pitcairn was very reserved out of college; nevertheless, our young student insinuated himself so far into the good graces of this professor, that he drew from him several observations, of which he afterwards made good use in his writings, but never without acknowledging to whom he was indebted for them.

His academical studies being finished, he set out upon his travels to Italy, in company with his eldest brother Mr. Samuel Mead, David Polhill, Esq. and Dr. Thomas Pellet, afterwards president of the college of physicians at London. In Italy he met with every thing which could gratify and improve his exact and refined taste, for all that is great and beautiful: and how advantageously to himself, as well as usefully to the public, he employed himself there, his works bear ample testimony.

At Florence he had the curiosity to inquire for the Tabula Isiaca: but getting no information about it, he desired leave to search for it in a lumber room over the gallery, where he found this valuable piece of antiquity, buried in dust and rubbish. He did the same service to the Florentines upon this occasion, as Tully formerly did the Syracusians, when he discovered to them the tomb of Archimedes.* At Padua he took the degree of doctor of philosophy and physic, in August 1695; and spent some time afterwards at Naples and Rome. On his return home in 1696, he settled in the place of his birth; where he practised physic for some years with a success and superiority of skill, which established his reputation, and laid the foundation of his future greatness.

In 1702, he published a mechanical account of Poisons, which work was so well received, that an abstract of it was inserted in the Philosophical Transactions § for January and February 1703. It was reprinted in 1708, with some addi-

* Tusc. Quæst. v. 3.

§ No. 283.

tions; but as it stands in this collection, it is taken from the edition of 1747, which differed so much from any of the former, that it might almost be looked upon as a new performance. In his younger days he imagined, that he was able to account mechanically for the effects of several poisons, by their mixture with the blood; but he was afterwards convinced, that there is in all living creatures a vehicle infinitely more subtil, an etherial and invisible liquor, over which poisons have a real, though inexplicable power.‡ This retracting of an opinion, early espoused, and which procured him great credit in the literary world, shews a candour and ingenuity becoming a great man.

In 1704, appeared his treatise De Imperio Solis ac Lunæ in Corpora Humana, & Morbis inde oriundis. His reasonings upon this abstruse subject are grounded upon the principles of planetary attraction, lately discovered by Sir Isaac Newton; and, as the system of that illustrious philosopher was then but little known, so it is easy to conceive, that our author's performance would be rather admired, than understood, by the generality of readers. He republished it in 1748, with alterations and additions.

Dr. Mead, in his travels through Italy, met with Bonomo's letter to Redi, setting forth his discoveries with relation to the cutaneous worms, that generate the itch. He presented an analysis of it to the Royal Society; which, together with his account of Poisons, deservedly procured him a place in that very useful body. This analysis was inserted in the Philosophical Transactions† of the first months of the year 1703. This same year he was chosen physician to St. Thomas's hospital; and about the same time was appointed, by the Surgeons company, to read the anatomical lectures in their hall.

‡ See the Preface.

† Artic. II.

In 1707, his Paduan diploma for doctor of physic, was confirmed by the university of Oxford. In 1716, he was admitted fellow of the College of Physicians; and went through all the offices of that learned body, except the presidentship, which he declined in the year 1744. Though nothing could be greater than our physician's merit, yet it might not have been thus universally known so soon, if it had not been for the famous Dr. Ratcliffe. Ratcliffe took a particular pleasure in patronizing a young man of Mead's excellent and amiable endowments: and in 1714, when the former died, the latter succeeded him in his house, and in the greater part of his business. He had quitted Stepney some years before this, and had resided in Crutched, and then in Austin-fryars, for the sake of being near St. Thomas's hospital. The distance of his new habitation from thence, for Ratcliffe lived in Bloomsbury-square, induced him to resign his place of physician; upon which occasion he received the unanimous thanks of the grand committee for his services, and was presented with a governor's staff.

Dr. Mead was now at the head of his order, as we learn from the testimony of writers, who cannot be supposed to have flattered. The celebrated Dr. Jurin, addressed to him a dissertation concerning the force of the heart, written against what the no less celebrated Dr. James Keill had advanced upon that subject: and begins in the following remarkable manner. "Sir: though I am not ignorant how rude and imperfect this dissertation is, yet I readily venture to submit it to your penetrating judgment. For how could I wish for a more impartial judge, or how could I choose a more proper umpire, than him, whose remarkable candour and humanity are as well known to us all, as those excellent talents which he enjoys, adorned with every kind of learning; and by whose bright genius and fine judgment we see the theory of medicine enlightened and illustrated, and the practice of it strengthened

and made easy? nor is there any one living, of whose approbation I should be more desirous, or under whose authority this discourse, if it has the good fortune not to displease you, will be more safe from the cavils of some perverse people."* Dr. Keill also addressed his answer to the foregoing dissertation to Dr. Mead: "for, says he to him, as my adversary has besought you to be his patron, so I desire to leave this controversy to your determination, who are a fit and learned judge of it. And for your part, great sir, who hold the first rank in physic, be pleased so to moderate by your prudence the disputations of those who differ in opinion, that they may not be contemptible to the unlearned, but profitable to the learned. § These papers were written at first in latin, printed in the Philosophical Transactions, and dated, the former January, the latter June, 1719: from which it appears, that Dr. Mead was applied to by the ablest men, as a fit moderator and judge in the most difficult questions, altho' he was not much beyond that period of life, when the generality of his profession begin to emerge.

It is remarkable, that party-principles never influenced this great man's attachments: and tho' he was himself a very hearty whig, yet he was upon terms of the strictest intimacy with Garth, Arbuthnot, and Freind. And when the last, upon a suspicion of being concerned against the government with bishop Atterbury, was committed a prisoner to the Tower in 1723, Dr. Mead constantly visited him, and became one of his sureties to procure his enlargement. But what contributed to cement the friendship between Freind and Mead, was a common quarrel they had been engaged in some years before. Dr. Mead having having had frequent opportunities of experiencing the efficacy of purgatives to prevent, or at least to lessen, the secondary fever, which so often proves fa-

* Keill's Essays on several parts of the Animal Œconomy, p. 54. Lond. 1738.
§ Ibid. p. 79, 84.

tal in the confluent small-pox, communicated this method of practice to several of his brethren, particularly to Ratcliffe and Freind. Freind adopted it; and, in his commentary on the first and third books of Hippocrates's Epidemicks, published in 1717, inserted the letter which Mead had written to him upon that subject some years before. These two gentlemen being now considered as associates in the same cause, a party was immediately formed against the new practice and its favourers; at the head of which was Dr. John Woodward, physic professor at Gresham college, who published upon this occasion, the state of physic and diseases, with an inquiry into the causes of the late increase of them, but more particularly of the small-pox. In this performance Dr. Woodward was not content with condemning the practice, but treated its favourers with contempt and ill manners, and more particularly our author; whose resentment, tho' just and well grounded, appears nevertheless to have been carried to a very exceptionable length, seeing it had not subsided twenty years after the death of his antagonist.* In 1719, when the plague was so fatal at Marseilles, the lords of the regency directed Mr. secretary Craggs to apply to Dr. Mead, as a man the best qualified to find out the most effectual methods to prevent its spreading. This occasioned the publication of his short discourse concerning Pestilential Contagion, and the methods to be used to prevent it, in 1720; which was so greedily received, that no less than seven editions were printed in one year. The eighth, which appeared in 1723, was enlarged with many new observations, and a whole chapter on the method of cure; and the last, in 1744, was not without improvements.

In 1723, Dr. Mead pronounced the Oratio Harveiana before the college of physicians, which was published in 1724; and to it was annexed, Dissertatio de nummis quibusdam a

* Preface to his treatise on the Small-pox and Measles.

Smyrnæis in medicorum honorem percussis. This oration was attacked with some smartness, by the most ingenious and learned Dr. Conyers Middleton, in a piece intitled, De medicorum apud veteres Romanos degentium conditione dissertatio, in qua contra viros celeberrimos Jacobum Sponium et Richardum Meadium servilem atque ignobilem eam fuisse ostenditur.* Mead's side of the question was defended by Dr. John Ward, late professor of rhetoric in Gresham college; whom Dr. Middleton, in a reply, treated with much contempt. Nevertheless, he every where expresses the greatest regard for Dr. Mead; and in a work published several years after, mentions him in the most honourable manner. He is speaking of an antique picture, which he supposes to be the first, and the only one of the sort ever brought to England; "Donec Meadius noster, says he, artis medicæ decus, qui vitæ revera nobilis, vel principibus in republica viris, exemplum præbet, pro eo, quo omnibus fere præstat, artium veterum amore, alias postea quasdam & splendidiores, opinor, Roma quoque deportandas curavit."†

In 1727, soon after his late majesty's accession to the throne, he was appointed one of the royal physicians; and for many years was engaged in the constant hurry of an extensive and successful practice. When, through age, he was grown unequal to the discharge of more active functions, and retirement was become absolutely necessary, he took the opportunity to revise his former writings. Some have already been mentioned, which were republished in this season of his life; and in 1747, came out his discourse, De Variolis & Morbillis, to which was annexed a treatise on the same diseases, by the celebrated Arabian physician Abubeker Rhazes, faithfully translated from the original Arabic into latin. A copy of the only remaining Arabic manuscript of Rhazes's treatise, was com-

* Middleton's Works, vol. IV.

† Germana quædam antiquitatis eruditæ monumenta, p. 2. Works, vol. iv.

municated from Leyden by the celebrated Boerhaave; between whom and our author there always subsisted a very friendly correspondence. In his discourse upon the small-pox, there is a chapter upon Inoculation; from which it appears, that he was greatly concerned in introducing and establishing this laudable practice among us.

The year 1749 furnished out two new productions from our author; namely, Medica sacra, sive de morbis insignioribus qui in Bibliis memorantur commentarius; and a discourse on the scurvy, annexed to Mr. Sutton's second edition of his method for extracting the foul air out of ships. The last, and as some think, the most useful of all his works, is his Monita & Præcepta medica, published in 1751. Here, with great candour and simplicity, he communicates all the discoveries that long practice and experience had opened to him, concerning diseases and their cures; and concludes with many salutary directions for preserving the body and mind, perfect and entire, to a good old age. Though his faculties do not seem to have been at all impaired in this last work, yet he did not find himself in a condition to finish any thing further; but gently decaying, and growing weaker every day, he expired upon the 16th of February 1754, without visible signs of pain, and was buried on the 23d in the Temple church, near his brother Samuel Mead, an eminent counsellor at law, who died twenty years before.

Dr. Mead was twice married. By his first wife, Ruth, the daughter of Mr. John Marsh, merchant of London, whom he married in 1699, and who died in 1719, he had eight children; four of whom died in their infancy. Of the rest, the second daughter, now deceased, was married to the late Charles Bertie, of Uffington in Lincolnshire, esq. the eldest to Dr. (now Sir) Edward Wilmot, and the youngest to Dr. Francis Nichols, both physicians in ordinary to his majesty. His only son, Richard Mead, is married to Anne, the daughter of William

Gore, esq. of Tring in Hertfordshire. The doctor's second wife, who is still living, was Anne, daughter of sir Rowland Alston, bart. of Odell in Bedfordshire, whom he married in August 1724, but had no issue by her.

To attempt a formal eloge of this great man, would be impertinent in a preface to his works; and especially after what has been occasionally dropped in the course of these memoirs. There is however one circumstance relating to him, which deserves to be mentioned, because it is uncommon; which is, that by his singular humanity and goodness, he conquered even envy itself: and accordingly this compliment was justly paid him in a dedication, by the editor of lord Bacon's works, in the year 1730.

It would be impertinent, in like manner, because it would be tedious, to enumerate the great and various services he did to the republic of letters: let it suffice to observe, what indeed every body knows, that few princes have shewn themselves equally generous and liberal, in promoting science, and encouraging learned men: and this is the true reason why Dr. Mead, notwithstanding the immense gains arising from his profession, did not die so rich, as might have been expected.

As to his literary collections and other curiosities, the world has already been acquainted with their value and contents by printed catalogues; and it may perhaps be said, not unjustly, that no subject in Europe had a library and a cabinet so richly and so judiciously furnished. Nor did he make this great collection merely for his own use, but freely opened it to others; so that ingenious men were sure of finding at Dr. Mead's the very best helps in all their undertakings.

He maintained a constant correspondence with all the literati in Europe; and his reputation as a scholar, as well as a physician, was universally established. There cannot be a better proof of this, than the king of Naples sending him the two first volumes of Signior Bajardi's of the antiquities found in Her-

culaneum; with the additional compliment of asking in return, only, a complete collection of his own works. This prince at the same time invited him to his palace, that he might have an opportunity of shewing him all those valuable monuments of antiquity; and Dr. Mead used to declare to his friends, that his years alone restrained him from undertaking a journey so suited to his taste and inclination.

Upon the whole, no foreigner of any learning, taste, or even curiosity, ever came to England, without being introduced to Dr. Mead, as it would have been a matter of reproach to have returned without seeing him. On these occasions, his table was always open; where, what seldom happens, was united the magnificence of princes with the pleasures of philosophers.

To conclude: he was sincerely the friend of all ingenious and learned men, at home and abroad: of Pope, of Halley, of Newton, with whose portraits his house was furnished. He presented to the college of physicians a marble busto of Harvey, done by an excellent hand, from an original picture in his possession; to which his own has been added by Dr. Askew, done by Roubilliac, and placed near Dr. Harvey.

NEW ANATOMICAL WORK.

The Editor has great pleasure in announcing to the medical world a work on Anatomy by the learned Professor of that branch of medical science in this University. Not having seen a prospectus of the plan, we are unable to point out the arrangement proposed to be followed; but from the well established qualifications of Dr. Wistar in this particular department, and from the inspection of a small part already issued from the press, there can be no doubt, that it will prove a most acceptable addition to the medical class, as well as to the practitioners of medicine generally.

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